

# The Punta Gorda Herald

PUNTA GORDA — In Tropical Southwest Florida, a Seaport on the Famous Charlotte Harbor — a Town that is Known for its Natural Attractions and the Hospitality of a Cosmopolitan Citizenship

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## FORESTS OF FLORIDA

Larger Area than in Any Other State in the Union

### TROPICAL SPECIES ABOUND

Interesting Conclusions as to the Probable Duration and Prospects

Roland M. Harper, formerly connected with the State Geological Survey, has published two studies of the arboreal resources of Florida and Georgia, respectively, which are doubly interesting by reason of a sort of census of the forests of those states and for the conclusions he draws from observation. The census is in the form of percentages which the different species of tree bear to the main standard of timber of the state, as gathered from various sources, supplemented by the author's field work in nearly every county in Florida. The conclusions he draws from observations differ radically from those of some other writers on the subject as relates to the existence of the forests.

Florida, he says, has probably a larger area of forest at the present time than any other state in the Union, about 27,000,000 acres, of which 17,659,000 were owned and controlled by lumbermen on January 11, 1911, according to the latest authoritative report. From this the author figures out a total stand of timber in this state at that date of 108,000,000,000 feet. This state has also considerably more species of trees than any other state in the Union, a conservative estimate being 200. Nearly half, however, are tropical species, confined to a limited area of South Florida.

As to the probable duration of Florida forests his conclusions are interesting. Fires, in his opinion, are not so destructive to Florida forests as they are to those of the Northwest or North. The recuperative powers of our climate, the greater length of our growing season, make fire losses less severe in their ultimate effects. The increase in the area under cultivation he finds the most threatening factor in the problem of the perpetuity of our forests, but complete exhaustion of our timber by this means is probably several centuries off, in Mr. Harper's opinion. Long-leaf pine is being cut faster than it grows, but he doubts even whether this species is being exhausted so rapidly as was formerly supposed. The future prospects of our forests are thus summed up in the conclusion of this paper:

"In fact, wherever the lumber, turpentine and phosphate men have done their worst and departed to new fields the pines begin to grow again unless the farmer comes immediately after, for there are hardly enough people in Florida yet to keep the forests down. Even when the population is much denser than it is now the rate of cutting may not be increased, for we now have substitutes for wood in almost every industry in which it is used, and the use of these substitutes is constantly increasing, so much that the manufacturers of long-leaf pine and cypress lumber in the last few years have tried to stem the tide by advertising their products in newspapers and magazines. Long before our forests are replaced by cultivated fields we will probably learn to dispense with wood almost entirely, as the Eskimos, Tibetans, Turks, Spaniards, Mexicans and other people living where trees are scarce do now, and the remaining forests will be valued chiefly for their beauty and their influence on climate, stream flow, etc.

Even our fires, the author observes, "sweep over any one spot about once in two years and tend to keep down underbrush but do no harm to mature and sound pines." A new crop is continually springing up from the seed and the young pine grows so fast that many of them are soon beyond the reach of harm. We are giving our understanding of the author's arguments in this, not quoting his words.

The author insists, in the other

article referred to, that the Georgia forests are also reproducing themselves faster than the superficial observer is inclined to believe, and that there is no immediate danger of a timber famine in that state.

The address of Chief Forester Graves before the Southern Forestry Congress at Asheville, and outline of which was given in Tuesday's issue, should be read in connection with the reassuring words of Mr. Harper. If forest conservation goes hand in hand with forest destruction from accident and the inroads of the industries, our forests might as well be perpetual, except as the needs of room for agricultural expansion might interfere. — Florida Times-Union.

### A Cuban View

They are having a terrible time over in Florida over the nomination for governor. A preacher named Catts announced himself a candidate and gum-shoed it about over the state, not being taken at all seriously by the three or four other candidates. He took to the by-ways and cow-paths, and told those country Crackers how the Vatican was about to move from Rome and move right over there to Florida and run things with its Swiss guard to suit itself. No Roman domination for them. They had no idea of what Roman domination was, but they would not have it, and the morning after the primaries came with Candidate Preacher Catts with a plurality of a hundred or so. The rest of the candidates did not realize how dangerous the Pope and his church were, way off in Italy, and now they are studying a way out of the predicament. A state which got rid of carpet-baggers, the negro vote and converted soldiers into good old democrats, should not be puzzled over this little matter. — Havana Evening News.

### State Division

The sentiment for state division is growing fast and in all probability the coming legislature will have the subject to deal with. There isn't a real argument against it, but there are many favorable to it. As the matter now stands the situation is just about as inconvenient as could possibly be. People from this section of the state having business in the capital city are compelled to waste practically a week getting there and back. Conditions in West and South Florida are as different, almost, as between South Florida and Kentucky. Legislation needed in one section is of slight interest to the other. There are dozens of reasons why both sections would be benefited by division. So why not turn the trick in the next legislature and have it over with. It's coming in the near future, anyway.

If Tallahassee wants to remain the Capital city of some state, it had better get into the band wagon and boost for state division. Then it could still be the capital of West Florida, or North Florida, or whatever they choose to call the other state. But if it continues to fight state division it will find itself out in the cold, cruel world by its lonesome some dark morning. South Florida either wants state division or the capital brought nearer the center of the state. We are growing mighty fast down this way and if we haven't sufficient votes to secure state division now, we soon will have. — Fort Lauderdale Herald.

We should have state division. There is little in common between north Florida and South Florida. We believe that the two would be benefited by dividing. Our development would be far more rapid.

We would then put the state's credit behind the drainage, and the work would be accomplished quickly. We would soon make the value of the 'glades' greater than north Florida. Let us agitate until we get it. — Fort Lauderdale Sentinel.

P. S. King of Jacksonville, was the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Botts several days this week. He is a cousin of Mrs. Botts.

## HOLD GROUND TAKEN

British and French Withstand Desperate German Attacks

### TRIED TO RETAKE POZIERES

In Hand to Hand Infantry Fights Entente Allies Make Slight Advances

London, England.—The British are holding all the ground gained on the Somme front in northern France against desperate counter attacks by Germans according to official statements.

Fresh troops have been pushed into the fray on the German side and additional artillery massed for the effort, but General Sir Douglas Haig says attacks on both the British right flank and the center were stopped by the concentrated artillery fire of the British, the Germans at no point succeeded in reaching the British trenches.

The greater part of the important fortified town of Pozieres which stands on high ground vital to a further advance toward Baupume is still in British possession. North of the town, despite strong opposition by the Germans, additional ground has been gained and slight advances at other points in hand to hand fighting by the infantry are announced.

### French Also Make Progress

Resuming their assaults on the German lines south of the Somme the French have made progress to the north and south of Soyecourt on the right flank of their offensive. Tuesday's Paris official bulletin reports a slight advance south of Estrees and the captures of trenches north of Vermandovillers.

At Verdun there are indications of an operation of importance northeast of the Citadel, a violent bombardment being reported in the Fleury and LaLuef sectors where the Germans recently have been exerting their heaviest pressure.

On the Austro-Italian front Rome reports the capture from Austrians of Monte Cimone.

## UNLAWFUL TO GOSSIP

When Infectious or Contagious Disease is the Subject

### STIFF PENALTIES IMPOSED

Law Not a Joke—Is to Prevent Rumors and Aid Health Authorities

How hard it is for most of us to mind our own business!

How much more frequently our conversation is about people than about things!

How easy and how natural is gossip!

The health authorities of the State have discovered—or rediscovered—this fact already during the present mental disturbance about poliomyelitis, or infantile paralysis. At the present writing, not a single case of the disease has been brought into the State from any center of the infection outside of Florida. So far as the knowledge of the health authorities goes, there is not a case within the State, and yet rumor—gossip—has brought reports of several such cases, which when run to earth have been traced to an overheard conversation or a misunderstood telephone message.

The health authorities of Florida, state and municipal, are working in closest harmony to prevent the coming of the disease, which once having gained a foothold here might bring results too serious to contemplate, results with larger percentage of fatality than the visitations of yellow fever in the years that are far in the past. No possible avenue of ingress is overlooked, and if the season shall pass without the coming of the affliction, the people of Florida will have one more occasion for rendering profound thanks to the health officers at the gateways of the State.

This work of safeguarding the public health is and must be vigilant and unceasing. Railroad and steamship companies and their employees, the mayors and health boards of the various cities, the

physicians of the State are co-operating actively with the State Board of Health, and when the importance of the work and the watchfulness that is required, are considered, it isn't fair to increase the amount of this work by circulating reports of the existence of the disease when and where it doesn't exist.

Infantile paralysis is not easily diagnosable, even by the medical profession, in its early stages, and the average layman wouldn't know it until it had reached a possibly incurable stage and probably not even then. The circulation of rumors naturally alarms the public, for the public doesn't stop to ask where the rumor started nor who started it. In its love for the sensational, with its fondness for being the first to tell "the news," good or bad, the public passes it along and it grows like the traditional snowball, quickly overshadowing all chances of recognition.

Now, Stop—Look—Listen!

If some one tells you confidentially, or otherwise, that a case of the disease has overtaken one of Mrs. Bill Smith's children, ask your informant who told her (or him) and who told that one, and so on as far back as you can trace the story. Then stop the rumor as far as you are concerned. Don't tell any one, excepting the nearest health officer. Tell him as soon as you can reach the nearest telephone; tell him all you have found out and the entire genealogy of the rumor, and then, imitate the clam—don't talk. It's the quickest way to stop gossip and to aid the health authorities.

Away back in 1889, an unusual law legislature was convinced of the unwisdom of gossip, especially about disease, and it put into law books of Florida, Section 36-21, which reads this way: "Whoever falsely or maliciously disseminates or spreads rumors or reports concerning the existence of any infectious or contagious disease, shall be punished by imprisonment not exceeding six months, or by fine not exceeding one thousand dollars." This law wasn't intended as a joke and it isn't one, for there have been convictions and stiff penalties imposed under it.

The preservation of the good name of Florida demands the support of all loyal citizens. No one who gossips, however self-conscious of his own innocence, to the detriment of that name, is a loyal citizen. Let the doctors tell it, should such a disaster visit us. They will know and you won't until they tell you.—State Board of Health.

### Mangoes Bring Good Price

A net profit of \$60 has been received by H. Seeman, in charge of the Edison estate in this city, for a shipment of twenty-three crates of mangoes grown on the Edison property and forwarded recently to the Chicago market, where the fruit was sold through the agency Storch Bros. & Co. The mangoes were shipped more or less as an experiment, the fruit being little known throughout the north and only on rare occasions appearing on the market in that section. Considering the fact that only the most common varieties composed the shipment, the price received is considered highly gratifying, and it is expected that further shipments will be made. Several varieties grown successfully in Lee county, among them the Alphonso Bennett, bring from 20 to 25 cents each in Fort Myers, and it is expected that a demand for this fruit could be established that would result in most profitable net returns. The possibilities of the industry are attracting the attention of local shippers and it is believed that next winter several carloads of mangoes will be forwarded under ice to various northern points. — Fort Myers Press.

One hundred thousand maps of the National Forests will be distributed to tourists this summer. These maps show the best camp sites, good hunting and fishing grounds, roads, trails, and telephone lines, and give directions how to reach points of interest.

## BEAT IN EVERY WAY

California Citrus Fruit When Compared With Florida's

### TOMATOES ALSO SUPERIOR

Products of this State Have Flavor and Lusciousness of Their Own

Florida products in the way of tomatoes and citrus fruits are far ahead of those grown in California is the statement made recently by Theo. F. Ahrens of Denver, Colo.

Mr. Ahrens had just finished cleaning up a tour of the tomato fields throughout Florida and according to him the products of the Florida soil are far more in demand in the West even as far as Oregon, than those of California.

"The growers in Florida," said Mr. Ahrens, "are beginning to learn that they have just as fine, if not a better market in the West for their tomatoes as they have in the East. I have just succeeded in cleaning up my tomato business and succeeded in getting about all there were down on the East Coast."

"The thing that has pleased my customers is that they were paid on the spot, their crops yielding them an average of \$1.40 per crate, this being the fanciest. Herebefore they haven't got freight out of their shipments. Of course, choice tomatoes do not bring quite so much, for there is not such a demand for them."

Ahrens was asked how the Florida tomatoes compare with those grown in the North and East.

"There is no comparison to be made, for the Florida product cannot be excelled. That you may know what they are thought of in the West, I have just shipped sixty cars, besides other odd cars heretofore."

"How do Florida citrus fruits compare with the California products?"

"The Florida fruits," answered Mr. Ahrens, "have the California fruit beat in every way. The reason is simply because the California fruit has no taste or juice, while that of Florida has a peculiar flavor and lusciousness of its own that can be found in no other."

"Another thing," continued Mr. Ahrens, "the people are being educated throughout the country to the fact that those delicious avocado pears are grown in Florida and they are coming into greater demand. Your early vegetables, such as eggplant, Irish potatoes, celery, young onions, lettuce and radishes all find a ready market, and I am introducing your okra into the West."

"I'm now on my way home," concluded Mr. Ahrens, "but, be assured, that I shall be back here in plenty of time for next season's tomato business." — Okeechobee Call.

### Catts Says He will Run Regardless

DeFuniak Springs, Fla., July 18.—"I am and will remain the nominee of the democratic party," declared Hon. Sydney J. Catts when he stepped from the train here this morning.

"It is possible that Knott will be the court's nominee and candidate," continued Mr. Catts, "but by the vote of the people, my friends, I will be the governor of Florida in January. Enough said."

Mr. Catts was met by many citizens here who were anxious to learn what he proposed doing, for it is considered the court's decision of yesterday refusing the petition of Mr. Catts for a writ of prohibition practically gives the lead to Mr. Knott.

His statement made as he left the train set at rest any idea that he would quit the fight, for he proposes to claim the nomination by the people and will contend that he and not Knott is the democratic nominee.

Experts of the Forest Service estimate that the farm woodlots of the United States contain from 200 to 300 billion board feet of lumber and one to one-and-a-half billion cords of wood.